

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2267

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 3095

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJ: CHANNELING NARCOTICS AID THROUGH THE U.N.

REF: STATE 215775

1. WE UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM OF THE EXCESSIVE PERCENTAGE OF THE UNFDAC BUDGET ALREADY CONTRIBUTED BY THE U.S.; AND IF THIS WOULD PRECLUDE AN INCREASED U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO COVER AN EXPANDED UNFDAC PROGRAM MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE.

2. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST TWO FURTHER IDEAS WHICH MAY BE WORTH EXPLORATION:

-- NARCOTICS AID THROUGH THE COLOMBO PLAN. ALTHOUGH THE BURMESE ARE NOT COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS, THEY ARE LONG-STANDING PARTICIPANTS IN THE COLOMBO PLAN. BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC AID AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BURMA IS CHanneled THROUGH THE COLOMBO PLAN, AND THE BURMESE SEEM TO FIND THIS AID ACCEPTABLE EVEN THOUGH IT IS ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL IN NATURE. U.S. NARCOTICS AID THROUGH THE COLOMBO PLAN WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE AS WELCOME TO THE BURMESE AS IT WOULD THROUGH THE U.N., BUT IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW (AND PERHAPS OURS AS WELL) TO AID ON A DIRECTLY BILATERAL BASIS.

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-- NARCOTICS AID UNDER U.N. "AUSPICES." IT MIGHT

BE POSSIBLE FOR UNFDAC TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE BURMESE AN EXPANDED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERING ITEMS THE BURMESE NEED AND WANT BEYOND WHAT IS ALREADY PROVIDED UNDER THE CURRENT PROGRAM, AND TO INCLUDE THIS ASSISTANCE IN SOME SORT OF AN EXPANDED OVERALL "NARCOTICS CONTROL SUPPRESSION PLAN" FOR BURMA. LACKING THE FUNDS TO PROVIDE THIS ASSISTANCE ITSELF, THE U.N. MIGHT THEN CALL ON OTHER COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO DO SO TO GIVE THE SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO THE BURMESE DIRECTLY ON A BILATERAL BASIS, BUT UNDER U.N. "AUSPICES" AND AS A PART OF THE AGREED OVERALL PLAN. WE WOULD PROBABLY END UP PROVIDING THE BULK OF SUCH AID, BUT A FEW OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT ALSO PARTICIPATE. (THE AUSTRALIANS, FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY OFFERED THE BURMESE SOME NARCOTICS TRAINING ON A BILATERAL BASIS BUT WERE REBUFFED.) THIS SCHEME, TOO, WOULD PROBABLY BE LESS PALATABLE TO THE GUB THAN AID GIVEN WHOLLY BY THE U.N., BUT IT MIGHT WELL BE MORE ACCEPTABLE THAN AID ON A WHOLLY BILATERAL BASIS; AND IT WOULD ALSO MAKE OUR PROGRAM TO SOME EXTENT MORE "MULTILATERAL" THAN IT IS AT PRESENT.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS ON THESE IDEAS. IF EITHER OR BOTH SEEM FEASIBLE FROM THE USG POINT OF VIEW, WE COULD INFORMALLY SOUND OUT THE BURMESE FOR THEIR OPINION.

OSBORN

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